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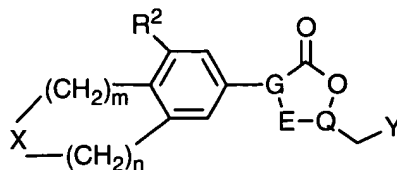
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Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-42 cancelled.

43. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein

Y is

- a) -NHC(=W)R^1 ;
- b) -O-het , -S-het , or -NH-het ;

X is -NR^3 -,

W is

- a) O, or
- b) S;

R^1 is

- a) H,
- b) C_{1-8} alkyl,
- c) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl,
- d) OC_{1-4} alkyl,
- e) SC_{1-4} alkyl,
- f) NH_2 ,
- g) NHC_{1-6} alkyl, or
- h) $\text{N(C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl)}_2$;

R^2 is

- a) H,
- b) halo, or
- c) C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^3 is

- a) H,
- b) C_{1-8} alkyl,

- c) aryl,
- d) $C(=W)R^5$,
- e) $C(=O)OR^6$, or
- f) $S(=O)_iR^7$;

R^4 is

- a) H, or
- b) C_{1-8} alkyl;

R^5 is

- a) H,
- b) aryl,
- c) NR^8R^9 , or
- d) C_{1-8} alkyl;

R^6 is

- a) C_{1-8} alkyl,
- b) aryl, or

R^7 is

- a) aryl,
- b) NR^8R^9 , or
- c) C_{1-8} alkyl;

R^8 and R^9 are independently

- a) H,
- b) C_{1-8} alkyl, or
- c) aryl;

wherein $>G-E-$ is $>N-C-$ and Q is a carbon atom;

aryl is a phenyl radical or an ortho-fused bicyclic carbocyclic radical wherein at least one ring is aromatic;

het is a C-linked five- (5) or six- (6) membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring having 1, 2, or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen, which is optionally fused to a benzene ring;

at each occurrence, alkyl or cycloalkyl is optionally substituted with one or more OR^8 , halo, aryl, $S(=O)_iR^7$, $C(=W)R^8$, $OC(=O)C_{1-6}$ alkyl, or NR^8R^9 ;

at each occurrence, aryl is optionally substituted with one or more halo, OH, CF_3 , OC_{1-6} alkyl, CN, C_{1-6} alkyl, $S(=O)_iR^7$, $C(=W)R^8$, $OC(=O)R^8$, $NHC(=O)R^8$, or NR^8R^9 ;

- c) aryl,
- d) $C(=W)R^5$,
- e) $C(=O)OR^6$, or
- f) $S(=O)_iR^7$;

R^4 is

- a) H, or
- b) C_{1-8} alkyl;

R^5 is

- a) H,
- b) aryl,
- c) NR^8R^9 , or
- d) C_{1-8} alkyl;

R^6 is

- a) C_{1-8} alkyl,
- b) aryl, or

R^7 is

- a) aryl,
- b) NR^8R^9 , or
- c) C_{1-8} alkyl;

R^8 and R^9 are independently

- a) H,
- b) C_{1-8} alkyl, or
- c) aryl;

wherein $>G-E-$ is $>N-C-$ and Q is a carbon atom;

aryl is a phenyl radical or an ortho-fused bicyclic carbocyclic radical wherein at least one ring is aromatic;

het is a C-linked five- (5) or six- (6) membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring having 1, 2, or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen, which is optionally fused to a benzene ring;

at each occurrence, alkyl or cycloalkyl is optionally substituted with one or more OR^8 , halo, aryl, $S(=O)_iR^7$, $C(=W)R^8$, $OC(=O)C_{1-6}$ alkyl, or NR^8R^9 ;

at each occurrence, aryl is optionally substituted with one or more halo, OH, CF_3 , OC_{1-6} alkyl, CN, C_{1-6} alkyl, $S(=O)_iR^7$, $C(=W)R^8$, $OC(=O)R^8$, $NHC(=O)R^8$, or NR^8R^9 ;

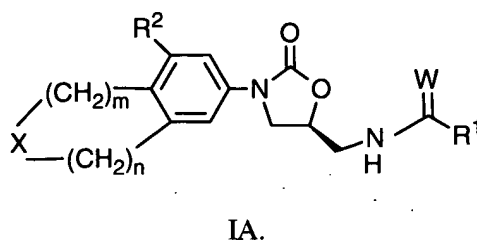
at each occurrence, het is optionally substituted with one or more halo, OH, CF₃, OC₁₋₆alkyl, CN, C₁₋₆alkyl, S(=O)_iR⁷, C(=W)R⁸, OC(=O)R⁸, NHC(=O)R⁸, or NR⁸R⁹, oxo, or oxime;

m is 2;

n is 2; and

i is 0, 1, or 2.

44. A compound of claim 43 which is a compound of formula IA:



45. A compound of claim 44 wherein R² is H.

46. A compound of claim 44 wherein R¹ is C₁₋₆alkyl.

47. A compound of claim 44 wherein R¹ is methyl.

48. A compound of claim 46 wherein X is NR³.

49. A compound of claim 46 wherein R³ is C(=O)R⁵, or C(=O)OR⁵.

50. A compound of claim 48 wherein R³ is C(=O)CH₂OH.

51. A compound of claim 48 wherein R³ is CHO.

52. A compound of claim 49 wherein R⁵ is C₁₋₄alkyl, optionally substituted with C(=O)C₁₋₄alkyl, OC(=O)C₁₋₄alkyl, C(=O)phenyl, or phenyl, wherein said phenyl is optionally substituted with I, or CF₃.

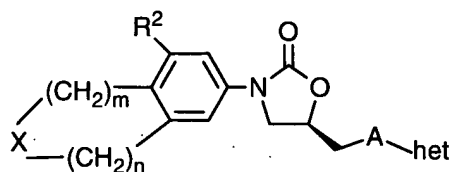
53. A compound of claim 49 wherein R⁵ is phenyl.

54. A compound of claim 48 wherein R^3 is $C(=S)R^5$, wherein R^5 is aryl, alkyl or NR^8R^9 , wherein R^8 and R^9 are independently H, C_{1-4} alkyl or aryl.

55. A compound of claim 48 wherein R^3 is $S(=O)_iC_{1-4}$ alkyl,

56. A compound of claim 48 wherein R^3 is H, C_{1-8} alkyl, or aryl, .

57. A compound of claim 43 which is a compound of formula IB:



IB

wherein A is O, S or NH and het is isoxazol-3-yl, isoxazol-5-yl, 1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl, isothiazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-thiadiazol-3-yl or 1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yl.

58. A method for treating microbial infections comprising: administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of claim 43.

59. The method of claim 58 wherein said compound is administered orally, parenterally, transdermally, or topically.

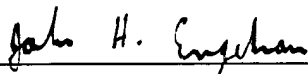
60. The method of claim 58 wherein said compound is administered in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 150 mg/kg of body weight/day.

61. The method of claim 58 wherein said compound is administered in an amount of from about 3 to about 100 mg/kg of body weight/day.

62. The method of claim 58 wherein said infection is skin infection.

63. The method of claim 58 wherein the infection is eye infection.

Respectfully submitted,



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